CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A data storage apparatus comprising:

2   an interface configured to receive digital data; and

3   a data processor communicatively coupled to the interface and being configured to

4   automatically receive digital data from the interface and cause the digital

5   data to be stored to a write-once-read-many (WORM) storage device.

1   2.   The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a WORM storage device.

1   3.   The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data processor is further

2   configured to generate one or more indexes for data stored to the WORM storage

3   device.

1   4.   The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data processor is further

2   configured to generate meta data that describes one or more attributes of the data

3   stored to the WORM storage device.

1   5.   The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data processor is further

2   configured to

3   process a search query, and

4   in response to processing the search query, generate data that identifies data stored

5   on the WORM storage device that satisfies the search query.

1   6.   The apparatus as recited in Claim 4, wherein the data processor is further

2   configured to process the search query against one or more indexes generated by

3   the data processor.

1   7.   The apparatus as recited in Claim 4, wherein the data processor is further

2   configured to automatically process the search query according to a set of one or

3   more time criteria.

1   8.   The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the digital data includes facsimile

2   data.

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1   9.   The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the digital data includes electronic

2   document data.

1   10.   The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the digital data includes printer data.

1   11.   The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

2   the data is stored on an WORM optical medium, and

3   the data processor is further configured to cause a label to be applied to the

4   WORM optical medium, wherein the label specifies one or more attributes

5   of the data.

1   12.   A method for storing data comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

2   receiving digital data to be stored; and

3   automatically causing the digital data to be stored to a write-once-read-many

4   (WORM) storage device without human intervention.

1   13.   The method as recited in Claim 12, further comprising generating one or more

2   indexes for data stored to the WORM storage device.

1   14.   The method as recited in Claim 12, further comprising generating meta data that

2   describes one or more attributes of the data stored to the WORM storage device.

1   15.   The method as recited in Claim 12, further comprising:

2   receiving a search query,

3   processing the search query, and

4   generating data that identifies data stored on the WORM storage device that

5   satisfies the search query.

1   16.   The method as recited in Claim 15, further comprising processing the search

2   query against one or more indexes.

1   17.   The method as recited in Claim 15, further comprising automatically processing

2   the search query according to a set of one or more time criteria.

1   18.   The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the digital data includes facsimile

2   data.

1   19.   The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the digital data includes electronic

2   document data.

1   20.   The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the digital data includes printer data.

1   21.   The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein:

2   the data is stored on an WORM optical medium, and

3   the method further comprises causing a label to be applied to the WORM optical

4   medium, wherein the label specifies one or more attributes of the data.

1   22.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more

2   instructions for storing data, the one or more sequences of one or more

3   instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more

4   processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

5   receive digital data to be stored; and

6   automatically cause the digital data to be stored to a write-once-read-many

7   (WORM) storage device without human intervention.

1   23.   The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, further comprising one or

2   more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or

3   more processors, cause the one or more processors to generate one or more

4   indexes for data stored to the WORM storage device.

1   24.   The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, further comprising one or

2   more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or

3   more processors, cause the one or more processors to generate meta data that

4   describes one or more attributes of the data stored to the WORM storage device.

1   25.   The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, further comprising one or

2   more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or

3   more processors, cause the one or more processors to:

4   receive a search query,

5   process the search query, and

6   generate data that identifies data stored on the WORM storage device that satisfies

7   the search query.

1   26.   The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 25, further comprising one or

2   more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or

3   more processors, cause the one or more processors to process the search query

4   against one or more indexes.

1   27.   The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 25, further comprising one or

2   more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or

3   more processors, cause the one or more processors to automatically process the

4   search query according to a set of one or more time criteria.

1   28.   The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein the digital data

2   includes facsimile data.

1   29.   The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein the digital data

2   includes electronic document data.

1   30.   The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein the digital data

2   includes printer data.

1   31.   The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein:

2   the data is stored on an WORM optical medium, and

3   the further comprising one or more sequences of additional instructions which,

4   when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more

5   processors to cause a label to be applied to the WORM optical medium,

6   wherein the label specifies one or more attributes of the data.